

REQUIRED

Member Number: G#

Last 4 Digits
of SSN

Employee
Identification Number



Board of Education
Retirement System

**MAILING ADDRESS | 55 WATER STREET, 50TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10041**

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This form can be submitted via our document upload link on nycbers.org.
You may also submit this form via fax to (718) 935-4124 or (718) 935-3830.

Prefix

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other _____

Name	M.I.	Last Name

Home/Legal Address	Apt. #

City	State	Zip Code

Mailing Address (if different from above)	Apt. Number

City	State	Zip Code

REQUIRED - Primary Telephone Number	Secondary Telephone Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Is this a Cell #	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

REQUIRED - Primary Email Address	Secondary Email Address

OFFICIAL DATE OF RECEIPT

2026 TDA ROTH CATCH-UP OPT OUT FORM



REQUIRED Member Number: G# <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Last 4 Digits of SSN <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Employee Identification Number <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
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Effective January 1, 2026, federal law requires that when **highly paid participants** make age-based catch-up contributions to the BERS TDA Program, **these catch-up contributions can only be made on a Roth basis.**

For 2026, a highly paid participant is defined as one who earned over \$150,000 in Social Security wages during 2025. This wage threshold is indexed to inflation, so it will be updated each year.

If you are a highly-paid participant enrolled in the BERS TDA Program, **BERS will deduct your age-based catch-up contributions on a Roth basis** in the year 2026, unless you instruct us not to deduct age-based catch-up contributions by checking the first box and filing this form with BERS.

If you previously requested not to have age-based catch-up contributions deducted from your pay, but you have changed your mind, you can also use this form to resume age-based catch-up contributions by checking the second box.

If you earned \$150,000 or less in Social Security wages in 2025, filing this form will have no effect. If you become a highly paid participant in a later year, **and you want to opt out of Roth catch-up contributions**, you will need to file a form **for** that year.

AGE-BASED CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS ELECTION

If I earned over \$150,000 in Social Security wages in 2025, please do not deduct age-based catch-up contributions in 2026. I understand that if I check this box, I will not make all the TDA contributions I am otherwise entitled to.

Please deduct age-based catch-up contributions in 2026, even if I am a highly paid participant. I understand that these age-based catch-up contributions will be deducted on a Roth basis. (Check this box if you have previously filed this form to opt out of Roth catch-up contributions this year, but have since changed your mind.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I hereby acknowledge that the elections on this form relating to my participation in the BERS Tax Deferred Annuity Program are correct and confirmed with my signature below.

I understand that any person who presents false or fraudulent information on an application with intent to defraud BERS is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in prison.

DO NOT SIGN OR DATE UNLESS IN FRONT OF A NOTARY

Signature REQUIRED _____ **Date** _____

State of _____ County of _____

On this _____ day of _____ in the year 20 _____

personally appeared before me the said _____

to me known to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing document, and he (she) duly acknowledged to me that he (she) executed the same, and the statements contained therein are true.

Signature of Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds

Affix official seal in the box below

REQUIRED Member Number: G#	Last 4 Digits of SSN	Employee Identification Number

BERS | Board of Education Retirement System
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 NEW YORK, NY 10041

**2026 TDA ROTH CATCH-UP OPT-OUT
 INSTRUCTION SHEET**

ROTH CONTRIBUTIONS — Roth contributions are contributions that are **taxed when they are made**. The BERS TDA Program first began to permit Roth contributions as of January 1, 2024. Before this date, the BERS TDA Program permitted only pre-tax contributions.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROTH CONTRIBUTIONS AND PRE-TAX CONTRIBUTIONS —The difference is in the taxability. **Roth contributions** are fully taxed by the federal government at the time that they are made, so they are not subject to taxes at the time of distribution. **Earnings on Roth contributions** are free from taxation at the time of distribution if the distribution occurs in the fifth year after the first Roth contribution or later, and as long as the participant is 59½ years old, disabled, or deceased. By contrast, **pre-tax contributions** and **earnings on pre-tax contributions**, are not taxed until they are distributed.

2026 DOLLAR LIMIT — This is the maximum dollar limit you can contribute to the BERS Tax Deferred Annuity (TDA) Program in 2026. Generally, the maximum contribution amount for 2026 is the lesser of 85% of compensation or \$24,500. Those eligible for catch-up contributions (see TDA Booklet) may contribute as much as \$3,000 in 2026 above the \$24,500 limit and are limited to a lifetime total of \$15,000. Members age 50-59 and 64 or older are eligible to contribute an additional \$8,000 in 2026. Members age 60-63 are eligible to contribute an additional \$11,250 in 2026.

AGE 50 CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS — Members age 50-59 and 64 or older are able to contribute an additional \$8,000 to the BERS TDA. If you earned more than \$150,000 in Social Security wages in 2025, these catch-up contributions can only be made on a Roth basis.

SECURE 2.0 ACT OF 2022 CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS
 A higher catch-up contribution limit applies for employees who are age 60, 61, 62 and 63 who participate in the BERS TDA program. For 2026, this higher catch-up contribution limit is \$11,250 instead of \$8,000. If you earned more than \$150,000 in Social Security wages in 2025, these catch-up contributions can only be made on a Roth basis.

SERVICE-BASED CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS — Members of BERS who have been employed by the Department of Education for at least 15 years, and whose combined TDA and 401(k) contributions during their employment average less than \$5,000 annually, may be eligible for service-based catch-up contributions. Service-based catch-up contributions can be as much as \$3,000 each year (above the \$24,500 limit), and are limited to a lifetime total of \$15,000. If you are eligible for service-based catch-up contributions, these will be divided between Pre-tax and Roth in the same way as your base contributions.

Please submit your 2026 TDA Roth Catch-Up Opt-Out Form by fax to **(718) 935-4124** or **(718) 935-3830**. You can also upload your 2026 TDA Roth Catch-Up Opt-Out Form through the **DocUpload** portal on our website.

Please sign the bottom of the 2026 TDA Roth Catch-Up Opt-Out Form in front of a notary and ensure the notary completes all required fields. Once notarized you must return the form to BERS for processing. If your form is not completed correctly, it will be returned to you and no action will be taken on your account.